

The death of Povl Bang-Jensen, a dismissed United Nations senior political officer, has officially been written off as a suicide, and there seem to be powerful interests that are content to let it repose at that. Bang-Jensen was fired for insubordination when he refused to disclose to the U. N. secretariat the names of 81 refugee Hungarians whose testimony he had taken under a pledge of secrecy.

This testimony was of great importance to the investigation by a U. N. special committee of the soviet military suppression of the Hungarian rebellion of November, 1956. Bang-Jensen thought that soviet operatives had infiltrated the U. N. bureaucracy, and that to disclose the names of the witnesses might expose them or surviving relatives in Hungary to death. He finally was able to gain his demand that the transcript bearing the names should be burned unread in his presence.

The magazine National Review has brought the evidence down to date and raises some disturbing questions.

Bang-Jensen was last seen at 8:30 a. m. Monday, Nov. 23, when he left his home for a job in the New York office of CARE. His body was found Thursday morning, Nov. 26, lying across a path in a Queens park. The medical evidence established that he had been dead no more than 24 hours. Where had he been for the preceding 48 hours? The path is normally used by many persons who walk their dogs, and children play in the vicinity.

The police made no public report of the exact results of the autopsy. There was no report on whether Bang-Jensen had several days' growth of beard, no report on when he had last eaten.

Even his wife has not seen the suicide note he was said to have left. There was no statement whether the phrasing, spelling, etc., were recognizably his, yet misspellings first established the falsity of the confession of Cardinal Mindszenty, who was convicted by the Hungarian Communists of treason a decade ago.

Was the pen with which the note was written found in Bang-Jensen's pocket? What sort of paper was it written on?

There is no report that an effort was made to follow up the statement of a taxi driver who stated, before the body was found, that he had driven Bang-Jensen to the U. N. entrance, which is across the street from the CARE office where he worked.

On Nov. 20, three days before he was reported missing, Bang-Jensen attended a PTA meeting at his children's school and took an active part. His pas-

tor has said that his religious beliefs precluded suicide. A psychiatrist he had consulted insists that he had no suicidal tendency. His wife is convinced that he could not have committed suicide. The pastor also reports that his religion forbids cremation. Yet, on an alleged instruction of the unseen suicide note, his body was hastily cremated and returned to Denmark.

The police are content to write off the case, as one official said, as "a perfect suicide—the revolver in his hand, the bullet in his skull, the spent shell on the ground nearby."

Odd how conveniently these things happen to men who oppose communism.

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